Thomas Antisell

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Detroit Mich:
Nov. 5th/53

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor,

Just a week since I returned home from the Pac. R. R. Exped^n; and am remaining here to rest myself, with some members of my family here: I left Lt. Parke and the rest of our Company at San Antonio Texas whence they will come on in a few days now: they waited for the total decline of the Yellow fever in the South. but I was so anxious to get back that I posted on before-hand. I found all safe & well. as I trust are yours. I wrote to you a couple of notes but it may be, from imperfect

postages, that they never reached you: Mr Parker will bring on to you the collection of plants which I made: some of them were made in the winter in California I am afraid I could not dry well enough & you may be disappointed in their appearance. I enclose you a list of the Camp Stations we made during our trip & as the sheets are marked to correspond it will assist you in determining the locality.

By returning home so much later than I expected, I have been too late for my place in the Med.l School Pittsfield, & after this business is over which will be in a couple of months when our report has to be sent, I do not then clearly see my way = Can you say what progress has been

made in the Cooper Institute – I would so like to get a place in it.

I had made arrangements to return to San Francisco: but it took so much longer time to cross thro' N. Mexico than Parke imagined & besides having been attacked rather severely by dysentery. I thought it better to come North for the winter than to return thro' a warm climate so soon. I therefore wrote a declension of the California offer, which odd enough was in connection with that "mineral" – asphalte – it sticks like pitch to one – I hope to be down in New York in a few weeks at the farthest, when I will do myself the pleasure of seeing you, & should you have the leisure or feel inclined to

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

write me a few lines. I should esteem it a favor

Yrs yours truly & obliged

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Prof. Jno Torrey

96 St Marks place

N.Y.

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Washington D.C.
Feby. 22nd. -56

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Dr.

Yours of the 18th came duly to hand, and in reply to your two queries concerning the collection of plants I am directed to say — that at the end of three (or perhaps 4 months) months, your communication will be expected. The funds of the appropriation being pretty well exhausted Lt. R. bids me state he has set aside $200 or $250 for the Bot. report: & to know if that sum will bear any relation to the amount of work involved in your report.

You ask me how long my stay in W— may be = the report will not be completed for 4 months to come, & I am here I suppose certainly that time = I will not take another Expedition, should it be offered to me — & desire to settle down somewhere with my family — & since I have broken through my acquaintance & arrangements in New York - it would be scarcely worth

while to return there to renew a struggle for a Competence: I suppose I may as well try this atmosphere, & see if I can live upon any stray waifs of Scientific Examinations which may float along here = Even in that I expect my chance to be slight, inasmuch as the Laboratory department of the Smithn Inst was organized last fall by the appointment of a young Chemist Dr. Easter (from Baltimore I believe) into whose hands will be thrown whatever business goes to that quarter. That same laboratory is at present a most ignoble representation of a Chemists work room - without, furnace - sand Bath - dome - or any of the little neatnesses required for Manipulation I suspect however it is in vastly better order than when L. Smith worked in it - Indeed I think it was a room underneath - the present one is on a level with the Entrance & library & hall. I sit & work Chiefly in the laboratory & opening out from it is the large room at the East end - occupied as a "locus in quo" the Minerals of the surveys lie strewn on tables scattered over one half the floor - while the other portion of the room is the reception room for Books, contributions &c forwarded to the Instn from which they are taken (having been dusted & sorted previously) to the Library = Could not a Collection of Minerals be made & a Geological department made in this

Institution? — I see very little of Dr. Henry — have met him once or twice, but do not think we have advanced in acquaintance — Messrs. Baird & Girard I also have gotten to know, but as I do not know any thing about natural History & they do not talk Chemically — our conversation is limited to generalities

I see that Regnault has been lately formulising the Boiling of Water for determination of heights and I have been calculating with his formula & it gives results equal to the Barometer — the variation not being more than 6 feet per thousand — The modified formula is $h = 517 T + T^2$ h being the height, T the lowering of the Boiling in degrees reckoning from 212° downwards. This formula holds good for 10,000 feet altitude = Since this is so correct wd. it not be well to recommend it as an additional Way of means of determining heights on these Expeditions, where Barometers get Broken so frequently — we carried out Seven Bs. & brought home one safe — a portable thermom.c apparatus might be made for the purpose? — Captn Sitgreaves carried out something of the Kind but it was broken; What do you think of it.

I have been reading Laurents Methode de Chimie & think if I were teaching again — I should be very apt to introduce his "even numbers" & his "monads & Dyads" to a class. they have many advantages over Electro Chemical formulae — but what could one do with his double atoms — thus H^2Cl^2 — H^2O

or worse H^2 for uncombined hydrogen while combined Hydn. is H simply — calling the latter an atom & the former a Molecule — In the Organic department its adoption has numerous advantages. —

Have you any experience of the determination of Copper by Sulpho Cyanide of Potassium — it is said to be more accurate than the determination by way of Oxide — the process is this — Dissolve the Copper (ore) in $NO_5 HO$ — & dilute pass Sulphurous acid gas into the Mixture & while the solⁿ is faintly impregnated with the gas — add Sulpho Cyanide of Potm to the Solution — this precipitates all the Copper as Sulpho Cyanide & precip — nothing else. The Iron is kept as protoxide by the SO_2 — the copper is calculated from the weight of S. Cyanide. —

Excuse this "Mapotsida" from

Yours Sincerely

Thomas Antisell

TORREY C[illegible]ENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

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Washington D.C.
March 6th = 56

My Dear Doctor

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Lt. Parke has written to me asking for an estimate of No. & Cost of drawings necessary for illustrating the report: & has desired me also communi-cate with you to know if there will be required any illustrations of plants for your report, & if so what the probable number of drawings would be. I scarcely think you had time to look through them yet, to know if there be any new species to be described, or worthy of illustration but if you have had the time, you will be good enough to let me know.

They are now Engaged in the Smithsonian put-ting up the Iron work &c. of the new Sand Bath & furnace & the room will look more like a labratory than a Museum as it did before. There is much wanted however a good Balance the one here is by Saxton & tho delicate is Clumsy and not to be Compared with an Oertling and the weights, bear a certain true relation to each other, but what relation they have to Avoir-dupoise or Centesimal weights; it is rather hard

to say — The gas is introduced into the laboratory in iron pipe to the pillars & thence to the tables in Caoutchouc, there is a gas blowpipe here a good feature of the room. Dr. Easter who presides has received either his whole, or his final Education under Liebig (at Munich I presume) & he has less of the Manifest destiny of that school — than any man I have ever seen, for to do the disciples of Liebig credit, Organic Chemistry is to them the "Magna pars" of the Art, & formulizing the whole business when they write papers.

You ask me about the Nth. Carolina Copper business — I have not heard from them since I left N.Y. & almost thought they had given up the matter for some time. I confess, I scarcely like to Engage in Manufacturing Chemy. or to undertake so important a pecuniary transaction where my practical acquaintance is so trifling: and would feel sorry if the necessity to live would compel me to take it — otherwise their arrangement with me was liberal; & I have not given them a refusal: the cold winter has I suppose checked operations there.

I am my D. D.

Yours Sincerely

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

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Washington Oct 22

Ans^d^ Oct 25^th^ /56

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor.

As you mentioned to me when I saw you that your report was Completed - if you forward it to me with the drawings &c I will take charge of them & of your interests therein. We are beginning to close up now, & our work will be completed in One month hence.

I have sent on to Hall (on my own part) some of the Fossils collected, so that every thing may be all correct - It will not take him long to do

it up (a couple of weeks I expect)

Blake has not turned up here this autumn; his connexion with the War depart has ceased, & I am afraid he has left such an unfavorable impression of Geologists in general at Head quarters that no successor is likely to be appointed.

There is nothing new here as there is no congress — there is absolutely nothing stirring.

I am my Dr Sir
Yours faithfully
Thomas Antisell

Prof J. Torrey M.D.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Ansd. Nov 27.
(sent drawing & receipt by Express)

Washington 355 I. St
Novr. 12th 1856

My Dear Doctor.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
H. B. R.
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

I received per Express the parcel containing your MSS & accompanying letter as also upon to day your later note of the 9th I should have acknowledged the receipt of the MS. but that I was waiting for an answer about it from Lieut Parke.

I was glad to find that I had accidentally picked up a few new species & am sorry that that the new genus I stumbled on should have been previously laid hold of by Mr Thurber. I suppose it is as difficult for Botanists to find a new genus as it is to obtain a new Element with Chemists. I see among the Collection no notice of any plants from the Mohave district — I thought I had sent you the dwarf specimens of Compositae chiefly, which are I suppose identical with those larger varieties of Los Angeles Valley —

the proper title for the plates is just as you wrote it viz -

U.S. P.R.R. Ex & Survey - 32nd Par. & Cal.

This is to be in single line Capitals above & near the border line at the upper left hand corner & the word BOTANY similarly on the right side just preceding the number of the plate.

Mr Seaman has been under some mistake in getting the drawings from you as they were not required for the preliminary report but for the final one, which has not yet gone into the printers hands so that there is no immediate hurry to the Engraver: The drawings ought to have come along here with the report. Mr Park has written to Seaman about them. - Mr P. also says that a special voucher will be required for the small sum paid to the Copyist else it will embarrass him, & in your next communication to me you could send one along -

I have pleasure in forwarding you the enclosed Treasury order for two hundred & thirty eight ($238) dollars being the limited

amount for the report & the drawings,
we thought it better to send both sums to you
rather than send a separate Order for the drawings.

Every thing here is in the "bas fond" of dulness
nobody here, even in this little world of Science.
and nothing new of any kind.

Yours Sincerely
Thomas Antisell

Prof. John. Torrey M.D.
New York.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

P.S. I forgot to mention that Lt. Parke
says it will be necessary for us to obtain the
drawings from the Engraver. as soon as
he has done with them; will you be good
enough to drop him a line to that effect,

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Washington D.C.
Decr. 9th 1856

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor.

Your note of the 27th ult has lain bye me some time un=answered not exactly through neglect. but through a desire to make the most of the remaining time allotted to me to close up this report: they have notified us that the papers must all go in at the close of this month & I have been delayed waiting to get some intelligence from Mr. Conrad to whom some of my tertiary mollusc shells went — Will you send me the preface or introduction to your B.R. Report which you said you would forward.

Let me thank you for the good word you "put in" for me to Prof. Henry - I first learned it the other day in calling upon him to ask him to speak to Commiss. Mason to give me some Chemical work under the 75.000$ grant made to the Pat. Office for Agricultural uses. He (Dr H) promised willingly but it will not amount to much as I have since learned that there will be little done in that way & what is that monopolizing genius of Boston Dr. C. T. Jackson will be likely to get it. I suppose therefore that I shall have to return to N.Y. next month & see on which wave of that busy shore I can float my bark. There is nothing here for Chemists the little business which comes to

the Smithsonian hardly suffices to keep young Easter's soul & body together – Indeed he had during summer a liver attack perhaps from living too much in the lower part of the city which no doubt he never would have done if he could have afforded better. – Dr Henry ought to get up a museum of minerals rocks & fossils which workers here might use for Comparison with their specimens – there are no facilities in the institution except for stuffing birds – You can make liquid analyses with a Paxton balance – not very trust=worthy, but no dry assays can as yet be made – Prof. H. is so afraid that a Museum will grow up about him that he closes his ears to any application involving expense

The Secy. of War has made no de-
-mand for an additional grant
for R.R. Surveys as perhaps he does
not wish to take the wind out of the
Sails of the Next Cabinet

The Land Commissioner has recom-
-mended that a Geologist be sent
out to N. Mexico to report upon the
Silver Mines of that Locality - No
Action has as yet been taken in
that regard.

Is the field still open in the
City for a Commercial Analyst?
When you send me your preface
drop me a line &

Believe me
Yours Truly
Thomas Antisell

Prof. John Torrey M.D.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Rec'd, Ans'd. March 20/

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Washington D.C.
March 19th 57

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor

As I cannot learn that as yet any nomination has been made to Westpoint I begin to think that I ought to be a candidate for it: There does not appear to be any use in waiting in this City for occupation in Chemistry. & What I write to you about is that if you have not given your interest away to any one that you would use it for me

It is necessary as you know for the recommendation of the Candidates to be made through the Engineer department over which Genl: Totten presides. Do you know him?; or could you give me a general letter as to my suitability for the place: if you can will you let me have it at your Convenience as I shall make Application for it at once.

That Bill for the improvement of the Patent which if passed would have made a Vacancy for me - dropped through & was neglected in the hurry of the last

moments of Congress — so that hope deserted me.

The few lines I sent you last were intended to serve as a "peg" upon which you were to hang a few prefatory remarks upon your report.

I am Dr. Doctor

Yours Sincerely

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Prof John Torrey M.D.

&c &c

New York

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Washington D.C.
355 I St
June 20 1857

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor

I suppose that it may have reached you by a slight paragraph that I have been shelved here by being appointed to a place in the Patent Office (assistant Exam in the Chemical department) made vacant by the death of Fyssowski - I have been just a week in Office & I suppose I can form some idea of it: it is very much in arrear & the business savors too much of Clerical habits to be very pala-table & could I have been free to choose I should not choose to hold it - but the angusta (very angusta indeed) res domi - compelled me to look for it - My inability to do any business here either

Medical or Chemical & my desire to remain here on account of family, led to my living out, not only all my means but into debt considerably = and what will not one do when they get a few hundred dollars into debt & have four five inches in the breadth of the Waistband = so I got Mr Cass to ask for & after delays & actions I received it the other day, such manoeuvring & personal applications for a small matter ($1800) as a government place makes one feel degraded - I know it made me feel so -

So here I am my Dear Dr = until some-thing better turns up "a la Micawber" - & nothing remains for me but to employ my leisure with the pen & retort or test tube I sent you copy of little Socy's little proceedings some time ago to advise you that I was in the flesh. & I will keep you occasionally so informed I wish to know if you go to Montreal next August to Assoc. Meeting - if so I have two

papers with drawings which if you will take charge of I should feel gratified they will be completed in a week - they are on the Geology of the route travelled over by us — I have Ceased to be a member of the Assn. for some years & do not desire to be renewed - perhaps therefore the papers are not presentable - how is that? If you do not go I would send them to Hall but as I know him but slightly I do not care to trouble him. —

I am in the same Office with Dr. Gale whom to know is to like better - but both he & Schaeffer stand on ticklish ground here, if the Secretary of the Interior could only do what he wants to - that is introduce political partisanship into this Office but for their sakes I hope he will not succeed. The Secy. & Commissr. Mason are at loggerheads about who has the right to appoint, & the Attorney Genl. has to decide the question, the 1st of next month will quiet the hopes & fears of many holders on.

I am afraid that I have bored you with the personal pronoun too long

you will therefore on turning this page be glad to find that I draw to a close. I enclose you your letter to Gen Totten which some time ago you were good enough to give me: I of course made no use of it as I ascertained the day after I wrote you that it had been given to Kendrick & passed by the Senate the last night of Congress.

With many thanks my Dr Doctor for your uniform kindness believe me

Yours sincerely

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Prof J. Torrey M.D.
U. S. Assay Office
Wall St
N. Y.

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Washington, 300 Ninth St
April 12. 1858

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor.

I had been thinking for some time past by what means or under what cover of Excuse, I, might address you for I take shame to myself in being so indolent to correspond & so seemingly forgetful of those who have been so active & energetic for me: You have solved the Gordian Knot for me, & I hasten to reply to yours of the 8th" recd this morning; and first, amid the avalanche of removals I remain: I have the sole charge of the Chemical room, & under the plea of Economy they will not at present give me any help = it is very hard work for 6 hours a day but easily earned money taken altogether: there is no fear of my going out until this government goes out also, as I came in on the Cass interest; I was equally sorry for Schaeffer's removal as you were = but it was inevitable he was mentally unfitted for the mode of doing business in the way the law is construed this last few years & he made himself so unpopular with patent agents that they brought all their interest to play & succeeded against them; Entre nous

altho' not so well posted up, Gale was a harder working & more practical man & a greater loss to the Office He is a man for whom I have a great affection. Peale still remains in Office: the tenure I believe rather slight: You will not see me at Baltimore as I have nothing to give to that family party & I cannot leave here at present: We like Washington well, pleasant society; but I do not like my Occupation very well I want to get into a College of some standing but have met with so many disappointments that I have almost despaired. Once or twice the idea of going back to Ireland crossed my mind but the wife & Children forbade it. An offer was made to me last fall to go to Mexico (Sonora) & make a mineral Survey with a good salary attached: I accepted; revolution came on, & when I was to have started in Nov:r things then & since have looked so squally that I of course held on here in preference; in the meantime a vacancy occurred here in the Office & they declined to promote me as I was uncertain to stay = and worse still an offer of the Chemical Chair of Col: Coll. in this Distr:t was made me which I was compelled to decline for same reason & now I am without either = The little laboratory which is here attached to the Office is not very well fitted up, but I manage to do a little work: I have been going over Hatchetts experiments on Artificial Tannin, cannot verify all his results: but I find that boiling SO_3^{HO} acts on powdered resin so as to wholly to decompose it

into water, Charcoal, & a few drops of an Ethereal body like the heavy oil of wine formed when making C_2H from Alcohol & SO_3HO. The charcoal is very fine ~~[illegible]~~ in scales & perfectly pure — would it not be a good method of obtg. pure Charcoal for abstract determination? — when cold SO_3HO & resin act together a brown powder is the result which appears to be an union of the SO_3 with the resin acids: it is tolerably permanent in the air but I find it difficult to examine as when placed in HO it separates the Sulph: acid at once & white resin falls = in Alcohol this change comes on more slowly = under Turpentine it preserves well for some days but gradually the Turpentine darkens thickens & the whole becomes a pasty homogeneous mass. I enclose you some of the compound of acid & resin — I hope ultimately to do something with it. I have had to lay it by to take up some Silver (Galena) ores & some aurif. pyrites for determination — the ores came from Sonora. I should like to have a little "Iridosmine" = I got a sample of Gypsum in white powder the other day from Amherst County Va. which yielded me only 10 Pcent or 1 Eq. of water: it was in process of degradation from a variety of Rhomboidal Selenite. I have not seen it any where stated as containing only 1 Eq. of H. The 7th Vol: of the P.R.R. Repts is binding & will be issued shortly. Six Vols. are out. you ought to ask Cochrane or some other M.C. to send you the copies: try also to get a copy of Emorys boundary Survey if you have not yet had it; I have directed the seeds to be forwarded to your City address (office) — the Agr. department is out of flower seeds. Brown and I are on middling good terms only — Some months ago I wanted to get some agricultural analyses from that bureau, but he took care of Jackson; I hope when you come to Washington you will come to my house & make it your abode: it will be more in the City than the Smithsonian Inst. is = and I will try & make you

as Comfortable: but I suppose that Henry has rightfully prior claims, to you.

Present my respects to your daughters & believe me my dear Doctor

Yours with Esteem

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

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Washington D.C.
Patent Office
October 23. 1858.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor

Yours of the 21st. came to hand this morning & as it contains a query indirectly I sit down to answer it to day With regard to Tuckers patent for Impt. in Manufacturing Sugar I may speak freely to you about it as by some accident of omission in the Office it has not been placed in the Secret Archives as Mr T. wished He is I believe now in possession of the parch=ment: his improvement claimed, is in the use of freshly precipitated Alumina prepared by decomposing the Sulphate by Carbonate of Soda = it is a very narrow Claim as you may perceive: his original application claimed several other matters which in the course of Correspondence with him he removed - he first claimed Alumina broadly - we referred to its Common use in refining & to Oxland's patent (vide Newtons Journal Vols 37 & 40. pp 27 & 107) & to the description in Ures Dict. = we also referred him to Rochleders Expts on Coloring matters precipitable by alumina given in a late number of the

Chemical Gazette copied I believe from Dingler. no claim could therefore be sustained for the use of Alumina broadly = nor for Alumina prepared by precipⁿ by Ammonia = nor for Alumina in the dry State: but as he averred that its Value when freshly precipitated was vastly greater and believing that possibly there was some Subsulphate in his preparation as it was precipitated with Soda we narrowed his case — to the use of the freshly precipᵈ hydrate of Alumina — when the latter is prepared by decompⁿ by Carb. Soda: — the Novelty (as we understand it) is the combination of the precipitation by Carb. Soda & the use of the precipitate while it is in the Creamy State: it is therefore as I stated at first an exceedingly narrow claim; but as the Office is very liberal in its views just [now]: any distinction made out clearly cannot be refused. Any further information I can give you in this or other matter I shall be most happy to do.: —

I am sorry to hear that Mr Cooper is not willing to pull in team without wanting to absorb all the glory of the race: as by good management it could be made a self supporting institution like the Polytechnic Institution in London where Scoffern Bachhoffer & Hoffman

have been alternately: Evening Lectures on Science & arts popularized would in N.Y. city — always I should think fill the room at a moderate premium. If the Management goes to the Board of Education I do not see that much change would result in my favor: I am obliged to you for your promise to keep me in remembrance when the time arrives.

I am connected here with the Medical Dept. of Georgetown College (which is located in this City) as Prof. Chem.y. — it's a small affair — a very small affair. I do not think it deserves even the title of one horse, & would perhaps better deserve the title of a meaner & stupider animal but it keeps my tongue & hand in practice & I opened the Courses last week by a preliminary course of four lectures on "Morbid Urine" — a Zoo-Micro-Chemical display instead of a big introductory full of Boanerges. I acquitted myself to the satisfaction of my Colleagues, & now having no apparatus here to give lectures on physics I have dashed at once into Affinity, Symbols, & Oxygen. This fills up a few Evenings in the week & makes me feel reconciled since we are doing the same things again, which when one gets on into middle life satisfies one

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

i.e: to continue to do the same thing is agreeable & in summing out this conclusion I find I have been calling on your time to a large extent in asking you to do something else than you are wont to do. that is to read this - & as this must therefore be unpleasant, I conclude.

I hope your family are all well. I suppose you have come into town for the winter: it is very pleasant warm weather here

Wishing you health this winter
Believe me Dr. Dr.
Yours Sincerely
Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

P.S. You promised me a little "Iridosmine" or platn = ore alloy - when you think of it you might enclose a little by post.

Dr. Newberry arrived here lately - have you gotten his Botanical Specimens or have you seen him.

Lt. Ives used up nearly all the appropriation I believe & there is only enough left for 3 months work at home.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Washington D.C.
April 9. 1859

My Dear Doctor

Your note of the date of the 8th instant came duly though slowly at hand. I am sorry that your efforts for Schaeffer has been to so little advantage. Our own have not been crowned with any advantage: some time ago (weeks) it was proposed to open a copy-right room in this Interior department & Schaeffer thought such a place might be suitable. — I went about with a memorial to the Secy. setting forth his destitute condition & begging almost for God's sake to appoint him, had it signed by the whole of the Examining corps (some 30 names) & presented - but without any good result — political influence & not charity rules here. With regard to the Annapolis affair I am afraid that nothing can be done: Prof Henry moved in S—'s favor but the Secy. of the Navy informed some friends of mine that altho' he was willing to receive recommendations

of suitable persons for the place, yet his own mind was made up as to whom he would wish to appoint - namely some Clergyman from Connecticut who had been removed from his living & suffered some losses from the expression of his sentiments contrary to the general abolition feeling of the place; so that I believe no hopes exist in that quarter. = Indeed I do not see how Schaffer can get along - he is not adapted to deal with the world else he might become a patent agent as Gale & other Examiners have done with moderate success - at all events they have lived. — I think it a shame of Bache who has the control of so much money & could easily make a place for him, if he only chose to - not to do so. = there is more money wasted & mistakes made in that Coast survey than would support a dozen Schaffers -

I was the sinner who told Brown to send you some seeds which you speak so disparagingly of = that the parcel was not larger is the fault of Congress which cut down Brown's appropriation to 1/3 of its extent — that you did not get a better assortment is due to Brown's management who did not order seeds

judiciously = there are however no other Varieties of any Kind - garden or floral - at the disposal of the Office & I therefore intended the best for you when I directed it to be forwarded.

I am sincerely glad you escaped the Simoom which swept over the Assay Office - I hope you have no personal dealings with the head = after that affair in this City & his Conduct, I should almost abhor the sight of such a man for whom ~~a~~ act there does appear in my mind the slightest palliation.

CORRESPONDENCE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

I am sorry that Wurtz did not always direct his attention to College life: he is not adapted to College teaching - at least his winter here has not developed the didactic element in him - He has been dissatisfied with the Class & the Class speak disparagingly of him = his Education in Chemical matters is good - his information accurate & plentiful on Chemistry but very limited in every collateral branch = noisy & boisterous in many ways - & so conceited that he is quite intolerant of any one possessing any information but himself & this latter element has prevented Medical students attaching themselves to him. = he has not made a good examiner in this office being hasty, impulsive, & beginning to express his ideas before they are thoroughly

formed in his mind — but he has many good qualities per contra —

For myself — I live — a mere organism — parasitical at that — attached to a government place — I know very few of us here will survive 1861, & I try to be wise in time: I have just now concluded the purchase of six acres of ground on the Virginia side of the Potomac 3 miles from this Office which will be something better than paying rent & market prices — and ad interim am waiting to be called out to Sonora to make that Survey which filibusterism & revolution has so long prevented. I do not know how to advise raising such a sum as that required for an Observatory = I can only tell how to raise a sum under 10.000 every year by annual subscription & I am endeavoring now to get an hospital started on that principle — that is small subscriptions annually = but such a sum as 1/4 million I have no idea of = it is like astronomical ideas generally, far above my comprehension.

With kind recollections to your daughters
& respect for yourself
Believe me yours sincerely
Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

12

Patent Office
August 18/59

My Dear Doctor,

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

In reply to your Query about the Tin Mine I can only say that I never heard of any reward offered by Government & am confident no such thing was ever done, indeed I hardly see how Congress would have the right to do such a thing - at all events I have enquired among my acquaintances not one of whom ever heard of it, I am sure it is a *myth*. With regard to the locality of Tin I saw a notice in a California paper some time back that a tin ore was found on the East side of the pass of the Sierra Nevada on the Southern route (By Warners ranche) somewhere near Vallecito — I thought a probable place was the Estrella Mts, on the Gila

and hunted over them a few days but found only a few poor specimens of Rutile. I am glad you liked your trip to Springfield. but to me reading the proceedings it seemed at the close that Pierce, Bache & Henry with one or two men began to glorify one another & make the outer public believe the world could not get along without them, I have always thought that in Country we do not want a travelling Assocⁿ; it was established in England to advance Science by inducing the Government to give money grants & other aid: it accomplished that there; as it never can do that here and as the Country is too large to draw men together from all parts, each meeting must be more or less Sectional.

I am quite at a loss to know what to do with the Specimens of Iron ores &c which the Treasury gave me - the subject is so vaguely indicated and so much has been done in the one line as

regards the Causes & Substances tending to produce Oxidation in Iron. by Mallet & others, that I see no open road before me – I could easily make a large report upon all which has been done already = but I suppose we must strike out a new line of investigation. Major Bowman is full of the idea that the Cause of the non oxidation of some iron compared with others lies in the nature of the Ore = & by finding which was a slow oxidizing iron & then Examining the ore the question would be solved – but it appears to me that is all wrong – that it is the mode of producing the iron which is the important matter & that the Cause of rapid Oxidation is the presence of less positive bodies in the Manufactured Metal – & this is just what Mallet has gone over = as it was Major B. who drew up the Circular his idea almost authorizes a line of investigation which would (appear to me to) be useless. Can you give me an idea upon this Cimmerian subject; I have the Specimens since June but the weather has been so hot this Summer & we have been so busy I have as yet had little time to look the matter up thoroughly

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

The Salary which Schaeffer at present is to receive is small ($1500 I believe) but it will be increased. I should think it was a pleasant place - I never consider Agricultural Colleges however permanent things. = I am getting published by Appleton a little brochure on Coal oils as there is no treatise in type = it will be soon out. I believe Wurtz is somewhere North the whole of this month past. I suppose he reported himself to you = I have moved out of the City about 3 miles, into Virginia where I bought a little piece of ground with an old house on it, & as we are a large family I have room now to turn round in: whenever you next come along I must bring you out to spend a night there hoping your family are well

Believe me

Sincerely Yours

Thomas Antisell

Prof: Jno Torrey M.D.
&c &c

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Washington D.C.
Nov. 8 1859

Proff John Torrey M.D.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor

I presume it is known to you that the Univ. of Virginia have advertised for Candidates for the Chair of Agriculture & Climatology or Physical Geography = to be filled in Feb.y. I propose to become a candidate for it: Can I have your patronage If not Engaged I presume you would not object to give me a letter or Certificate that I have lectured on agriculture before the N.Y. Socy. some years ago which was the beginning of our acquaintance soon after my arrival here: I have also been attached to an Agricultural School near Dublin = have written here in the Agricultural papers &c

I am Extremely anxious to get out of this Office – I think I could do better abroad in the world & besides that my position is somewhat irksome. I should have written to you long since but a severe attack of Bilious & Typhoid fever kept me abed for many weeks & has left me a shadow. I am however pulling up very fast.

I thought perhaps you might know the Faculty (or some members) of the University to whom if not pre engaged you might write & mention my name as a candidate for the situation, which would have the effect of preventing them pledging themselves to any one to whom they otherwise might.

If you are pledged ~~[illegible]~~ do not hesitate to let me know. & Believe me always yours –

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Washington D.C.
Patent Office
April 11/61

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir

Your letter was duly received by me some days since & contained $3.00 inclosed: I had paid $2.85/100 for copying the patent and the discount of the note leaves me your debtor in five cents which I hereby acknowledge. I delayed answering till I had opportunity to write you a long note. I have received plenty of notices from outside that I will soon be at large, but not having been notified from the proper quarter I do not place much belief in it & I rather think the Office is inclined to retain me, unless outside pressure is very great. And indeed for my own part I have no immediate desire to be shoved out when the country presents such a gloomy aspect. Our city here is under Military law. On crossing over the Potomac this morning, on my way to the Office, I found a mounted guard watching the bridge lest the South would send in troops. It is really

melancholy to see a fine country & the best government in the world, at the mercy of politicians. I would wish that the leaders of both sides were put under a strong government in Europe for six months and then they would be glad to let well alone.

Do you know a Mr. or Prof. Hedricks? he has been appointed an Assist. Examiner here & has been detailed into my room. I suppose to learn some official duties: he says he has lived in N.Y. some years & is well known to you. Is he a gentleman & scholar and may we extend the right hand of fellowship to him. I will enclose to you in a few days a Copy of the report of the Engineer in charge of the Treasury Extension in which unfortunately my report on iron appears. - the whole is a part of the report of the Secy of the Treasury made to the last congress.

I feel ashamed of my share in this report & doubly annoyed at the way it is printed & the way I have been treated. More than a year ago when I had completed all which now appears in that report, I applied through Major Bowman to the dept. for 600 or 700 dollars for apparatus & means to go on which I never could get through him or from the

department. I then closed the report in disgust
I sent in a bill of $160 for sundry expenses & pay
to a young man for cleaning & sorting & weighing
specimens — & objection is made to the latter because
the receipt for the same is in the body of a letter
& not seperately — I thought our own office was good
at technical objections but the Treasury beats us.
I could not get a sight of the proof sheets & hence
the first sheets of the Secretarys report was
barbarously printed; the final ones struck
of which you will receive one is a little better
but still full of errors &c — my preliminary
letter was suppressed & you will find my
name at the close so suppressed, that it
is difficult to know which is mine &
which is Clarkes — However after all
drawbacks on looking through the
report if you find any thing in it
worth your notice whereby you could in-
dorse a continuance of the examination
I would be glad to get it at your leisure
as I may again apply to the department
to be allowed to go on with the Experiments
in the way I indicate at the close of
the report. The departments have all
so busy with other pressing matters

that I cannot draw their attention to it yet, but I think that copies of it ought to be sent to all of those iron merchants who furnished Specimens

I am sure I have tired you sufficiently & therefore close with

remaining yours
Sincerely

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

P.S. Our Friend Dr. Gale has been trying to get on the board of ~~Ex~~ Examiners in Chief (under the new law $ 3000) Page is an antagonist & both hang — Schaeffer does not loom up for any thing good

Woodstock Vt.
March 28th

My Dear Doctor,

I received your letter of the 14th which left you "down among the Jerseys" where I cannot envy you your position, if you feel when away from home, as I do, out of gear as it were & what is worse, almost always out of humor; I am here nearly 3 weeks & have another five before me before I see again those beautiful parallelograms of Bricks & Mortar as Chas. Lamb calls them. Our Class here is small, not more than 60 at present & will not increase much; this is owing to our President & teacher of Anatomy having gone to Louisville & not being here as usual to keep up a winter class - I think I will not venture down again into those hyperborean regions another year.

I am glad that Hall is likely to get the Jersey Survey. I hope he will set the natives right about that Green Sand & the quantity of Potash which it contains, which Rogers led the folks to think contained 10 per cent of Alkali - he did not state that, but his analysis leads to the inference. I never could get more than 5½ per cent & that is a large yield. With regard to that Galena Analysis I am sorry it did not come up to the idea of what it ought to contain. I have sufficient of it at home for a couple of determinations & when I return I will lean it at your laboratory. I should be glad to have my own specimen checked off.

Before my arrival here (March 2) I had been in Michigan & Western Canada for a fortnight & lost all the newspaper

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

statements about Deville's Experiments on Aluminium & cannot in this place retrace them: they are not noticed in any Journal I have seen, & have no idea of his process. Some years ago W. Gregory wrote a paper shewing how cheaply Sodium could be obtained (I think for 20 cents per oz) & the immense advantage which w^d. result to analysis by his plan being adopted. However we never saw cheap Sodium from that to this. I hope Deville will succeed better; If you know where that process of his is fully described I w^d. get it for insertion in the next No. of the Journal — apropos of this, I find it exceeding hard to get any original communication I wrote a polite note to Kent asking one, & he sent me in reply a pettish letter complaining he never had seen the journal but by accident & did not therefore think he need contribute, &c &c. This neglect was the printer's fault not mine: but I wont let Kent off so easy —

Kane in his "Arctic Expedition" noticing the effect of cold below zero upon articles food mentions that Lard acquired a semitransparency & gave a conchoidal fracture: this last is curious. I am in the habit of connecting that mode of fracture with substances that have been heated & cooled: perhaps a wrong conception of mine as Gum arabic & flint are exceptions (the latter may have been heated) it is odd that cold should so approximate the particles of lard.

I am sorry about this protracted fight that Gibbs is obliged to make: & I am vexed with the College I have a great dislike to the Clergy (of every persuasion) they have done me a world of injury, & like the Roman Emperor I could wish they had but one neck & I would

treat them Caligula fashion.

I have matter sufficient up for the forthcoming number of the Journal and therefore do not wish to trespass on you when your time is so occupied but if you can finish any thing before the 10th of next Month we would be glad to have it for the May No.

I owe you an apology for troubling you to read so much to so little purpose

I remain

Yours truly

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

J. Torrey Esq M.D.
&c &c

96 St Mark's place

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Washington D.C.

April 26th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dr. D.

A friend of mine starting from here has allowed me to send you on a small parcel containing a few seeds collected -

One portion is a few Capsules from the Mescal Agave not such I believe as they make sugar from but that variety which when the plant is young they collect the young leaves before the stalk is put out when it "is heart" like a cabbage & bake it in the ashes = There is a Capsule (or seed pod) also of some Yucca or Agave I do not know which = The pods of the Mesquite are taken from that

tree on the Gila 10 miles East of Fort Yuma — from which I collected the veritable Gum Acacia, much to the detriment of my Clothes which came off second best in the Contest with the thorns. I also enclose you the nuts of the little shrub which I mentioned you was so plentiful on the Gila near the Mouth of the San Pedro.

The House of Represent.s in an Economical fit having negatived the Appropriation for Engravings & Maps for the P. R. Road — the Government propose to bring it up again in a little while & get it passed. they have little doubt but that toward the close of the Session they will succeed.

I think that a new mode of making Sulpho Cyanide of Potassium occurred to me the other day — we had none here, & was making some the usual

way, but could not get it pretty free from the yellow precipitate - which prevents its use as a precipitant for Copper. I then tried the simple Cyanide of Potassium with an Equivalent of Sulphur. I fused them together in a test glass & when cool dissolved it out with water - the solution acted beautifully with the Iron test & gave no black precipitate with a neutral Copper salt - a pinkish white was the color of the precipitate from which it contains no excess of Sulphur as S.K. - I evaporated the solution & got white prismatic Crystals of the Sulphocyanide, - is the plan new?

A. A. Hayes was along here a couple of weeks ago - I met him visiting the Smithsonian - he had some business with the Patent Office - not directly but as indirectly well affected toward the application of some parties who have been distilling - Heavy oils from Coal by Violette's plan of hot Steam. —

apropos of the Pat. Off. Let me thank you for the note to Schaffer - he is of the right stamp = & so is Dr. Gale. I feel quite at home in this overspread little city.

I had the pleasure of seeing your daughter here the other day. I did not know of her arrival until I heard it from Dr. Henry

I am My Dr. Dr

Yours very sincerely

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

J. Torrey M.D.
&c &c

Rec.d May 16
and " 17

Woodstock Vt.
May 13th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

17

My Dear Dr.

I tried to see you at the College, before I left N.Y. for these hyperborean regions where the snow yet lingers on the little hills, but without success. My chief object was to notify you of my departure, and that consequently if you wished another meeting of the Chemical Club you would have to take upon yourself the office of calling the members together: it would not be desirable to let our "Neophyte" die of neglect, & from our last meeting I augured good things of it.

apropos of that night — You recollect
Mr. Gibbs remarks upon Dr. Leidy's
chances of the Philadelphia Chair:
I was highly delighted to hear that
he was appointed with so large a
majority:— The impression here is that
B. Silliman Jr. is quite certain to get
the Newhaven Appointment, but goes
once more to Louisville — & it will
then probably lapse into Smiths
hands. (if the latter go there.) Can
You tell me who is or will the Suc-
-cessor to Beck at Albany?
I perceive that the Montgomery shares
are down, & learned before I left town
that they are discharging all hands
from Waitsboro' — finis coronat opus.—
They have discovered Gold here in
small quantities about 6 miles

hence, toward Castleton I believe — it occurs in Talcose slate. I propose to see it. I suppose you were nearly overrun by the horde of Medical Men who congregated in the City last week: at this distance it appears to have been a very foolish thing for Men to give so large sums for Entertainment as Parker & others did. They feasted & fought & did very little business: some of them talked absurdly about publishing quack nostrums & neglected the Pharmacopeia which appears to me to want revision. The Prussian Pharmacopeia, that used by German druggists & physicians is a work well worthy the attention of Pharmacopeia makers —

If I meet with any thing new or worthy of notice I will drop you

line which I hope you will not
deem troublesome

Yours respectfully
Thomas Antisell

TORREY C... ...DENCE
HERBA...
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Jno Torrey M.D.
&c &c

18

Rec^d. May 24
Ans^d " 25

Woodstock
Monday M.g.
May 23^d.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor

Pray forgive a trouble-some correspondent; the impression is growing strong in my mind that I ought to make some application for the Vacancy in Albany; may I ask you if you Know that the Faculty or Trustees have any one in their "Minds Eye" whom they will initiate into Office, or is it still an open question; if the latter, I would enter the lists, Drennen in the field to the contrary notwithstanding.

Do you know any of the Faculty personally & have you any objection to either give me a letter recom-mendatory or write to your friends (if any) on my behalf. Dr. A. Clarke (now here) has promised me to write over at once, & Dr. Childs (here also) of the Pittsfield Med: School has similarly interested himself: I think you must have overestimated the value of the Chair - as there were only 60 pupils or thereabouts at the last Session. In asking your interest & assistance I hope you will not deem me importunate; having heretofore so valuably aided me in this Country I naturally apply to you again: you know the proverb "give

an inch & an Ell will be taken".

In making some nitric acid from nitre & vitriol I obtained in the residue the radiated needle crystals of the hydrated sesquisulphate of Potash of Jacquelin & Philipps ($2 KO SO_3 + HO SO_3$) as it is rather rare, I set it aside till next day (crystals liquor & all) to crystallize but upon a second inspection they had passed into the flat rombohedral crystals of Bisulphate; as I never obtained these radiated prisms before & Graham says it is not known how they are formed: I can only say that I used a solution of nitre with some crystals in Excess & a moderately dilute acid.

Yours respectfully

Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

19

203 Prince St
August 28th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Doctor

Your note of the 2nd followed me, after some little delay to Pittsfield where I had been since the 3rd of this Month, I came to town on 26th on some business & leave again this morning & shall remain at Pittsfield until Septbr 25.

There has been some mistake in the delivery of the Vanilla Crystals, they never came to hand. I have made enquiries & no parcel of any kind was delivered here along with the letter; if I had them I should have gladly set to work at them as in Pittsfield "est mihi tempus agendi" Looking into the Chemical Gazette Vol. 8. I find Gobley has found it (Coumarine) in the leaves of "Angraecum fragrans" — an Orchid — as also in the "Asperula Odorata" by Schwartz. (Vol. 10.) in the Trifolium Melilotus & the Anthoxanthum Odoratum — & a few other plants. — Your Messenger must have by accident neglected to deliver them.

Our school in Pittsfield is wretchedly small as regards numbers this autumn. We do not well know how to account for it except that your City Schools absorb all the pupils; I have

tried the Experiment which Carr has done with the Albany school viz established a class of Practical Chemistry in addition to the general class = for which they pay a trifle extra $5 - voluntary I have fifteen out the whole class who attend, I merely teach them qualitative examinations by tube, & flat glass experiments - mostly the latter kind - I think its introduction into the Schools of this Country will be an advantage to the pupil. Might not such be introduced into your college on the same plan?

I am about to Engage in giving a course of Six Popular lectures on chemistry to the good folks of this village during September, & I have some thoughts of repeating them where I can go Southwards during the winter, I do not see any thing before me to occupy me during the winter of a better kind, & my only excuse is that of the Lampoon writer to Saml. Johnson who expostulated with him on his unworthy occupation "You know my dear Dr. we must live."

Did you think of asking Dr. Holton for any thing for the J. of Pharm.? - I want something original for the Number.

I am Dr. Doctor
Yours truly
Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

20

Answd

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Washington D.C.
300 Ninth St.
December 6th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Dr.

I had hoped to have seen you before you left our City and I Called over to the Smithsonian on Friday Evening only to find that you had left upon that afternoon. I hope you were able to do away with whatever unfavorable impression may have been produced upon the minds of the "powers that be" to your prejudice. I had wished to have spoken a few words to you as you were in Washington concerning the Analysis of Iron Ores for which Congress voted a very small sum last Session. About 18 Months Ago when the Bill was in the House Mr Clayton spoke to me about it & expressed his wish to throw it into my hands; after the Bill was passed I reminded him of his promise but it was then the beginning of the Crisis & nothing could be done

Five or 6 Weeks ago I spoke to Mr Clayton again about it when he told me to write him a letter about it which I did; some days after he brought me into Major Bowman's room & talked to him of it when I first learned your name in Connexion with it. In the Conversation Mr B. said that he had spoken to Mr Butterworth about doing it under your Supervision & that he Mr Butterworth did not seem overanxious to have it done at the Assay Office. I asked Major B. if you had personally moved in the matter or sought for it — he said not; and he also said that the Secretary was desirous to have the Work done in Baltimore by a late Agric'l Chemist of that City. As you had not personally moved & as a 3d party was in the field I pressed my own suit — but have heard nothing more about the matter & have no Expectation of receiving the business = it will be a large & rather Vague field to enter upon.

I think it but right to you to notify you what I have done in this respect. I should not have thought of applying for it had it not been for Mr Clayton and should have with=

drawn the moment I heard your name had I not also heard of its probability of going to Baltimore; I had no opportunity to let you know this much when you called at the patent office as Wurtz was present the whole time.

I am unwilling you should think for a moment that I was endeavoring to divert away from you what you desired to undertake: I had been watching the disposal for several months past & only a few weeks ago heard as I stated of it being likely to be done in New York.

I remain
My D. Dr.
Yours sincerely
Thomas Antisell

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.